

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/283,120	WAGONER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	

Hani Kazimi  
3624

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--*

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to 12/12/05.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 54-57.
3.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

Hani M. Kazimi  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 3624

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This communication is in response to Applicant's amendment filed on December 12, 2005. Claims 54-57 are pending in this application.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

3. The prior art of record (Fisher et al US Pat. No. 5,835,896) teaches a computer system and method for enabling communication between a host computer and a plurality of remote customers, an auction information transmission and processing system implemented as a computer program within the host and network, a bid database in communication with the host for storing bid information, the bid information being descriptive of a bid received from one of the remote customers, an auction manager implemented in the server and in communication with the databases, an electronic mail messenger in communication with the auction manager and the bid database, a bid validator, including means for receiving bids from the customers, connected to the auction manager and in communication with the bid database, wherein the auction manager induces a customer to bid across the network on a lot of merchandise by posting a descriptive merchandise catalog page containing data from the merchandise database, the customer views across the network the catalog page

and sends a bid to the bid validator across the network, the bid validator determines whether the bid is valid, the bid database stores the bid, the auction manager determines whether the bid is successful, and the electronic mail messenger notifies the customer whether the customer's bid was determined to be successful by the bid manager.

Even though, the prior art of record teaches a method and a corresponding system for performing the above mentioned steps, the prior art of record fails to teach an online product auction system comprising an auction center, said auction center includes a microprocessor operably connected to a storage media, said product auction system comprising a first bid data for said first product, said first bid data includes a first bid and a second bid, said first bid is greater than said current high bid value, and said second bid is greater than said first bid, and a second bid data for said first product, said second bid data includes a third bid and a fourth bid, said third bid is greater than said current high bid value, and said fourth bid is greater than said third bid, and a bid processing module which calculates and updates said current high bid for said first product, a start minimum bid; a low minimum bid; a current minimum bid; wherein the current minimum bid, at the start of an auction, is equal to the start minimum bid. For these reasons claims 55 and 57 are deemed to be allowable over the prior art of record, and claims 54 and 55 are allowed by dependency.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee, and to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled Comments on Statement of Reasons for allowance.

### ***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hani Kazimi whose telephone number is (703) 305-1061. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached at (703) 308-1065.

The fax number for Formal or Official faxes and Draft or Informal faxes to Technology Center 3600 or this Art Unit is (703) 305-7687 or 7658.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113 or 1114.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair>-

Application/Control Number: 09/283,120  
Art Unit: 3624

Page 5

direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system,  
contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



HANI M. KAZIMI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
Art Unit 3624

February 20, 2006